

Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Intermountain Conference Room
Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authority (SAA) serving the community.

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Reading of the Mission Statement

Jill Steeley called the meeting to order and led introductions throughout the room.

John Wilkinson read the Mission Statement.

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley (Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), John Wilkinson (Past Chair), Emily Munn, Vee Yang, Ray Roberts, Brian Coplin, Bob Stewart, Katie Jerstad, Gary Mihelish, Jess Hegstrom, Michelle Marshal, and David Roberts.

Guests in Attendance: Brandy Vail, Sue Noem, Dennis Nyland, and James Bissett.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen and Kellie McBride.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Postponed

A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting. Minutes from October 2, 2018 and November 13, 2018 will be reviewed at the next general LAC meeting on February 5, 2019.

3. Membership Updates

Bob Stewart, Vee Yang, and Jess Hegstrom were all approved by the LAC Steering Committee to become LAC members. They will be officially appointed to the LAC by the Board of County Commissioners January 10, 2019.

Jill informed the LAC that Molly Protheroe has resigned from the LAC and gave Molly a thank you for her service.

4. Updates From Other Mental Health Groups

a. Service Area Authority (SAA)

Matt Furlong stated that there was no CSAA meeting in December so there are no updates.

b. Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council

There were no members of the MHOAC present to provide an update.

c. Lewis and Clark Suicide Prevention Coalition

Jess Hegstrom reported that the new Man Therapy events calendar is up on the LCSPC website. The County is beginning to receive statistics for the Man Therapy website, so Jess shared that the website has had over 1,000 visits. Man Therapy is hoping to cultivate more partnerships with Lincoln, Augusta, and Marysville.

Jess Hegstrom was hired as the new Suicide Prevention Coordinator with Lewis and Clark Public Health. She starts January 22, 2019.

d. Law Enforcement Mental Health Committee

A meeting was not held prior to the LAC meeting so there is no update.

5. Workgroup Reports

a. One – Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Services

This workgroup has not met in a while as they assisted with the coordination of the Legislative Forum last month. This group is in the process of developing a comprehensive inventory of all current available resources in the community. This group also hopes to look at data pertaining to the number of cases our community resources respond to in correlation with the number of individuals involved in these cases. Admissions to the Montana State Hospital, Warm Springs, will also be researched.

Brandy Vail informed the LAC that the Crisis Response Team (CRT) received 1,700 calls last year, regarding 330 people from Lewis and Clark County. Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of calls the CRT has had to respond to.

b. Two – Community Outreach

This workgroup is looking to the LAC for some guidance on a new direction now that Man Therapy has launched and is running smoothly. Some discussion on this topic included ways this workgroup could help disperse the Mental Health Resource Guides and help monitor the various legislative efforts currently in progress. A government search engine could be used to track different bills. If this group were able to identify a few bills to highlight, it would be beneficial to send updates to Jocelyn Olsen to share with the whole LAC.

c. Three – Gaps in Services

Bob Stewart shared about the peer-to-peer event occurring this evening. This is something Instar hopes to continue each month to bring together peer support specialists for further support.

This Workgroup has continued working on the three goals of the Mayor's Challenge. Through their crisis intercept mapping, they have discovered more community wide trainings. It was also reported that bed boards will be accessible online to help CRT know which facilities have active and open beds so they may more efficiently refer individuals to applicable treatment centers. Senator McClafferty has reached out to discuss mobile crisis units in Billings, Missoula, and Bozeman in hopes that EMTs, CRTs, and Police Departments may report to mental health crisis calls together.

There was also discussion on community safety regarding gun safes and medicine disposal. East Helena Public Schools has gun locks that they are willing to share for distribution and Center for Mental Health and PureView provide medicine disposal service.

d. Criminal Justice Services Workgroup

Kellie McBride reported that this department has offered the Behavioral Health Coordinator position to someone who will start on January 28, 2019. This position will be working with providers in our community as well as surrounding areas (i.e. MCDC, Missoula Recovery Center, etc.) to develop strong partnerships in order to better serve those in need. This position will work with the Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole, Lewis and Clark Detention Center, and Pretrial Services.

6. Public Comment

Gary Mihelish shared a report from the Deputy Coroner in Lewis and Clark County stating 20 suicides were completed in the County in 2018; 16 men and 4 women. None of these individuals were under the age of 21 years. Discussion also disclosed that depression and anxiety are the primary reasons for suicide attempts. The group discussed potentially having the Deputy Coroner come present to the LAC regarding his experience with this topic.

David Roberts shared that there is a group through NAMI that provides support to individuals who have mental illness, stating that many individuals who do not have mental illness ("chronic normals") can sometimes create more challenges for those who do have mental illnesses. There is training in May for individuals to become a coordinator for the group.

Brandy Vail shared that Journey Home will begin direct admits on March 15, 2019. The CRT is currently responding out in the community to calls. St. Peter's ER is using Telepsych software now.

John Wilkinson shared some details about the Family-to-Family class he leads, explaining how important it is to provide support in all situations, especially extraordinary cases such as the one that recently occurred in the community.

Sue Noem shared that St. Peter's Hospital is taking over the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU), and the contract with Horizons is gone. All employees of the BHU will become St. Peter's employees.

The Montana State Mental Health Ombudsman, Dennis Nyland, shared that they now have a Mental Health Services Specialist, Julaine Beatty.

March 18, 2019 – Carol Kivler, a peer who overcame her mental health challenges, will be speaking at Carroll College.

Nicole with Breathe! Let's Start a Conversation will be holding a local mental health awareness event at the Holter Museum, coming up.

7. **Next Meeting**
February 5, 2019

8. **Adjourn**
Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.